

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 07709 162000Z
ACTION ARA-14

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R 161253Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1633
INFO USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 7709

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:PROG, IN
SUBJECT: VAJPAYEE SKIPS HAVANA NACB MEETING; OTHER TRAVEL PLANS

1. IT WAS ANNOUNCED MAY 15 THAT FOREIGN MINISTER
AB. VAJPAYEE WILL BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE HAVANA
MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED BUREAU BECAUSE HIS PRESENCE
IS "REQUIRED" IN PARLIAMENT, WHICH DOES NOT ADJOURN
UNTIL MAY 18. SAMARENDRA KUNDU, MINISTER OF STATE
FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, WILL LEAD THE INDIAN DELEGATION
INSTEAD.

2. VAJPAYEE'S TRAVEL PLANS FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS
FOLLOW:

A. MAY 22 - 24 OFFICIAL VISIT TO VIENNA (A TRIP WHICH WE
UNDERSTAND FROM MEA HAS BEEN POSTPONED TWICE THIS YEAR).

B. MAY 28 OR 29 DEPART FOR SSOD WHICH VAJPAYEE IS EXPECTED TO
ADDRESS A FEW DAYS LATER.

C. JUNE 2 RETURN FROM THE SSOD TO ATTEND A MEETING OF
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PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTA-
TIVE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN SRINAGAR JUNE 3.

D. JUNE 5 ACCOMPANY PRIME MINISTER ON HIS TRIP TO LONDON,
THE SSOD, AND WASHINGTON.

3. COMMENT: THE EXCUSE THAT PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS PREVENTS

VAJPAYEE'S ATTENDANCE AT HAVANA IS LESS THAN COMPELLING. THERE IS NO BUSINESS SCHEDULED FOR MAY 17 AND 18 THAT WOULD WARRANT HIS PRESENCE. "HINDU" CORRESPONDENT G.K. REDDY HAS TOLD US THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIDED TO HIM FIVE DAYS AGO THAT HE WOULD NOT BE GOING TO HAVANA BECAUSE OF VAJPAYEE'S INVOLVEMENT IN TRYING TO SETTLE THE INFIGHTING WITHIN THE JANATA PARTY, IN PARTICULAR IN THE STATE OF UTTA PRADESH. FURTHER, ACCORDING TO REDDY WHO HAS GOOD CONNECTIONS IN THE MEA, THE FOREIGN MINISTER DOES NOT FEEL THE SAME OBLIGATION TO ATTEND THE NAACB IN HAVANA THAT HE FELT WHEN IT WAS SCHEDULED FOR AFGHANISTAN, A REGIONAL COUNTRY WITH WHOM INDIA HAS CLOSE TIES. REDDY REFERRED TO THE VARIOUS "LOBBIEES" WITHIN THE BUREAU AND SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD JUST AS SOON NOT GET INVOLVED IN THE INEVITABLE SQUABBLES AT THE MEETING.
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